United Nations S/2003/678

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 June 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 28 June 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached letter, dated 28 June 2003.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

03-41117 (E) 280603

Annex

Letter dated 28 June 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my letter of 18 June (S/2003/659), I brought to the attention of Members of the Security Council the ceasefire agreement signed by the Liberian parties in Accra on 17 June 2003 under the stewardship of ECOWAS. I saw your prompt endorsement of a United Nations role in support of the implementation of that agreement as reflecting the Council's commitment to promote the peaceful resolution of the Liberian conflict. I believe that the time has now come for the Security Council to take action to give practical effect to that commitment, in the light of the most recent grave deterioration in the situation.

I am deeply concerned at the flagrant violations of the ceasefire that have occurred in recent days. There are reports that several hundred innocent civilians have been killed in fighting in and around Monrovia, and of wanton destruction of property and widespread looting. Approximately one third of the population of Liberia — about one million people — are seeking refuge in an already overcrowded Monrovia, where health and other humanitarian services are stretched to the limit. Virtually all international relief operations have ceased in the capital and most of the country. The combination of cholera outbreaks and food shortages in an environment of ongoing violence, disruption of life-saving services, and cessation of humanitarian aid threatens to produce a major humanitarian catastrophe. This could be on a scale possibly even greater than the recent one in Bunia in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The violations of the ceasefire shake the very foundations of the Accra peace talks. I am appealing to ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to press for the strict observance of the ceasefire agreement and to intensify the quest for a comprehensive political arrangement which would be fully consistent with the relevant provisions of the ceasefire agreement signed in Accra on 17 June 2003, including in relation to President Taylor.

The intense fighting around Monrovia in recent days has made it evident that, notwithstanding the commendable efforts of ECOWAS, broader international action is urgently needed to reverse Liberia's drift towards total disintegration. The consequences of allowing the situation to spiral out of control are too terrible to contemplate — not only for Liberia, but also for the countries of the subregion, particularly neighbouring Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire.

I therefore would like to request that the Security Council take urgent action to authorize the deployment to Liberia of a highly trained and well-equipped multinational force, under the lead of a Member State, to prevent a major humanitarian tragedy and to stabilize the situation in that country. Such a force would be authorized under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

Meanwhile, the Liberian parties should immediately and unconditionally respect the ceasefire to which they agreed in Accra, allow for the immediate resumption of international humanitarian assistance, and also resume comprehensive peace talks under the auspices of ECOWAS. At the same time, all States, including in particular Liberia's neighbours, should desist from any action that might be

construed as supporting or otherwise encouraging the continuation of the armed conflict.

I regret that this is the second such initiative that I have had to request in recent months. I am again compelled to do so by a grave humanitarian and security situation with massive potential for exacerbating regional instability. Our collective interest and our common humanity demand urgent and decisive action from the Security Council. We cannot be oblivious to the warning signs of an imminent possible catastrophe.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the Members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

United Nations S/2003/679

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 30 June 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 25 June 2003, which I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

03-41331 (E) 010703

Annex

Letter dated 25 June 2003 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on Stabilization Force operations for May 2003 (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making the report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on Stabilization Force operations

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 31 May 2003) there were just over 12,500 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

2. The overall situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable during the period under review.

Security

3. The Stabilization Force (SFOR) continues to contribute to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina; collect weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest; and monitor possible terrorist-related threats throughout the country.

4. The total number of items collected during the month under Operation Harvest included: 1,244 small arms (rifles, pistols and revolvers); 282,824 rounds of ammunition less than 20 millimetres; 274 rounds of ammunition between 23 and 76 millimetres; 19 rounds of ammunition greater than 76 millimetres; 4,855 hand grenades; 568 mines; 288.2 kilograms of explosives; and 4,668 other items (mortars, mortar rounds, rifle grenades, attack rockets and hand-made ordnance). SFOR conducted another campaign this month to encourage weapons to be handed in voluntarily.

5. On 8 May, SFOR searched a house near Bijeljina and detained Dragan "Vaske" Vasiljevic, suspected of being the driver and bodyguard of Ljubomir Borovcanin.[1] Vasiljevic was questioned by SFOR and subsequently handed over to the Republika Srpska authorities. A computer and documents were confiscated during this operation.

6. During another search, carried out on 8 May, of a house in Rogatica, SFOR discovered radio equipment being used to monitor SFOR frequencies. More radio equipment was found in a second building, together with illegal weapons and ammunition. SFOR confiscated all the radio equipment as well as the weapons and ammunition and is carrying out an investigation to find those responsible for the monitoring.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

7. On 30 April, the State Border Service and the Director of Civil Aviation signed an agreement restoring the use of Tuzla airfield for SFOR and civil aviation use. The newly redesignated Tuzla International Airport received its first commercial flight on 10 May, after having been closed since September 2001.

8. On 8 May, the Standing Committee on Military Matters (SCMM) adopted amendments to the Book of Rules on SCMM Operations and the Book of Rules on Internal Organization and Systematization of the SCMM Secretariat.

9. The SCMM Secretary-General informed the press that SCMM intended to ask the Council of Ministers to invest in the SCMM secretariat full Defence Ministry responsibilities and to include a seat for the SCMM Secretary-General with voting privileges in the Council of Ministers. SFOR is responsible for the State-level

military doctrine initiative to help Bosnia and Herzegovina qualify for NATO Partnership for Peace status. The overarching doctrine document was completed at a workshop on 15 May and is awaiting endorsement by SCMM.[2]

10. During the period under review, SFOR monitored 256 training and movement activities: 88 of the Republika Srpska Army (VRS) and 168 of the Army of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (VF). SFOR monitored 365 mine-clearance activities: 117 of VRS and 248 of VF. SFOR also carried out 47 inspections and verification of weapons storage sites: 19 of VRS and 28 of VF.

Cooperation with international organizations

11. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations working in-theatre.

12. On 20 May, Carla del Ponte visited Sarajevo to oversee the preparations by the State Court to try lower-level cases of indicted war criminals, with a view to transferring such cases from the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to the Bosnian authorities during the summer of 2004. She held talks with the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency, the Council of Ministers, the State Prosecutor, the High Representative and the Stabilization Force Commander.

Outlook

13. The security situation is expected to continue to be stable. Progress is being made in normalization in several areas: for example, in the opening of Tuzla airport, in military reform and in the response of the local population and police to Operation Harvest.

Notes

[1] Mr. Borovcanin is currently under indictment by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

[2] The Common Military Doctrine Working Group (made up of representatives of SCMM, the Ministry of Defence and leaders of VRS and VF) approved the new document on the overarching doctrine, which brings together the three documents relating to doctrine previously approved. The new document provides common terms for the protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity; peace support operations; and military assistance to civil authorities. Although this is the first document of its kind, it does not address some of the controversial issues which the military authorities will have to deal with in the coming months.

United Nations S/2003/680

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 29 June 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to draw, through you, the attention of the Security Council to the recent developments in Abkhazia, Georgia, that resulted in the death of Georgian civilians:

Yet another act occurred on 25 June of this year in the security zone in Abkhazia, Georgia, in the immediate vicinity of the checkpoints of the Russian peacekeepers, where the illegal Abkhaz formations opened mortar fire at the civilians, killing 2 and wounding 1.

This act added to the atmosphere of violence and impunity in the Gali district: just 10 days before another Georgian civilian, Tinatin Khubua, had fallen victim to the "death squad" of the illegal formations. As the assailants made clear, they aimed at terrorizing the Georgians living in the Gali district and deterring the return of internally displaced persons and refugees.

These provocative actions, together with the aggressive rhetoric of the Abkhaz separatist regime on taking military actions into the depth of the territory of Georgia, are fraught with serious consequences. Most importantly, their target is to undermine the United Nations-led peace process, in particular the efforts undertaken by the Russian and Georgian sides with United Nations participation in the context of realization of the Sochi agreements reached between the Presidents of Russia and Georgia as well as implementation of recommendations of the United Nations Security Assessment Mission in Gali.

By the same token these incidents attested to the urgent need to launch the United Nations peacekeeping operation and equally so to the need for reinforced security arrangements under the aegis of the United Nations to ensure the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees.

In lieu of the forthcoming meeting on the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, we call upon the Security Council to take immediate measures to avert the escalation of the situation, put an end to the killings of civilians and address the issue of their protection in the zone of conflict.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gocha **Lordkipanidze**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

03-41420 (E) 020703

United Nations S/2003/681

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 July 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 1 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement of the Chief of the Panmunjom Mission of the Korean People's Army dated 1 July 2003 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Pak** Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

03-41467 (E) 010703

Annex to the letter dated 1 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Chief of the Panmunjom Mission of the Korean People's Army dated 1 July 2003

A touch-and-go situation is now prevailing on the Korean peninsula owing to the undisguised policy of the United States to stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Korea is at the crossroads of war or peace. It is, in fact, hardly possible to preserve the ceasefire in Korea by the unilateral efforts of the Korean People's Army side.

On 31 May, the United States side announced its "plan for arms build-up", aimed to equip its forces present in south Korea with new types of weapons, thus totally ditching paragraph 13 d of the Armistice Agreement, which calls for ceasing the introduction into Korea of reinforcing combat aircraft, armoured vehicles, weapons and ammunition.

According to the "plan", the United States will allot 11 billion United States dollars as military spending in a bid to massively introduce modern unmanned aircraft, armed helicopters, the latest missiles, precision-guided bombs, infantry combat vehicles, an electronic command system, and so forth, into south Korea.

Such massive military reinforcement proves that the United States preparations for attack on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have reached the final stage under the new strategy of "pre-emptive strike", instead of the "deterrence" strategy which has been pursued so far.

At the same time, the United States is seeking to impose a "sea and air blockade" and lay an "international siege network" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by instigating its allies, including Japan, in disregard of paragraph 15 of the Armistice Agreement, which stipulates a ban on blockade of any kind in Korea. This action is aggravating the situation.

Such military reinforcement, massive concentration of armed forces and blockade against one side of the two signatories to the Armistice Agreement in gross violation of it will mean a war in fact.

Dark clouds of war are gathering to hang over the Korean peninsula as the days go by.

The United States has already begun relocating its forces in south Korea to areas south of the River Han in a bid to save the forces from the Korean People's Army artillery firing range and create conditions for making a pre-emptive strike at the Democratic People's Republic of Korea any time.

However, there is no place in south Korea for the United States forces to escape from a strike of the Korean People's Army.

Any possible war in Korea will not be such a limited unilateral war as that fought in Afghanistan and Iraq but the fiercest and hardest fought war, life-and-death battles unprecedented in the world.

The Korean people have steadily made full preparations to cope with such a grave war, are well aware of it, experiencing all sorts of misfortune and hardships caused by the hostile policy of the United States towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the past scores of years.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea sternly warns the United States that it will be held wholly responsible for the irrevocable serious consequences to be entailed by its complete abrogation of the Armistice Agreement and horrible disasters to be inflicted upon the innocent South Koreans by its reckless war action, in particular.

If the United States side applies sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and conducts a sea and air blockade against it anywhere and starts bolstering up troops in and around the Korean peninsula, the Korean People's Army side will promptly regard it as a complete breach of the Armistice Agreement by the United States side and will immediately take strong and merciless retaliatory measures against the infringement upon the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by mobilizing all its potentials, completely free from the binding force of the Armistice Agreement.

United Nations S/2003/682

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 July 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 1 July 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit herewith the report on the international security presence in Kosovo for the period from 1 to 31 May 2003 (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

03-41512 (E) 020703

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-31 May 2003) there were just over 24,000 troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in theatre.

Security

2. Although the overall security situation in Kosovo during the month of May was generally stable, some inter-ethnic incidents were reported. The most significant related to ethnic tension in Mitrovica North and the murder of two Kosovar Serbs in the Klokot/Vitina area. Although the number of murders, kidnappings, and rape cases increased from the previous month, total incidents actually decreased compared to reports from May 2002. The number of thefts decreased from the previous month.

3. Several incidents were reported in Mitrovica. These included the stoning of a Kosovar Albanian bus in early May, and the stoning of a Kosovar Serb bus in retaliation a few days later. On 7 May, Kosovar Serbs, who had blocked the main road in Suvi Do, west of Mitrovica, threw stones at the KFOR troops attempting to remove the barricades. Civic leaders, UNMIK police and KFOR met the following day to discuss the incident. Kosovar Serbs later blocked the Popovce road to prevent the resettlement of displaced Kosovar Albanians coming from Gornje Bitina. KFOR subsequently increased the number of patrols and checkpoints to deal with the tension, which remained high for several days afterwards.

4. On 7 May, four Kosovar Albanians were injured, two of them seriously, in a hand-grenade attack outside a nightclub in Pristina.

5. On 15 May, five Kosovar Albanians were treated for gunshot wounds and knife injuries in Mitrovica South. One of those injured was a Logistics Officer in the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC).

6. On 17 May, the former deputy mayor of Klokot, a Kosovar Serb, was found dead in Zabˈe. He had been shot in the head. Reportedly, a note marked "AKSh" (Albanian National Army) was found beside the body. The following day, a Kosovar Serb was found dead near the village of Vrbovac. He had also been shot in the head. UNMIK police began an investigation into both cases once the areas had been secured by KFOR.

7. KFOR continued to conduct intelligence-based surveillance operations and patrolling throughout the province to stop illegal activities and weapons smuggling, and to minimize the risk of terrorist activity.

8. During the period under review, KFOR collected 75 assorted weapons, 169 grenades and mines, and 12,448 rounds of ammunition.

9. At the beginning of the reporting period, a car was stopped by KFOR at a checkpoint near Batusa. The driver and a passenger ran away and escaped. Twenty kilograms of marijuana were found in the car, the largest quantity confiscated this year in the province. KFOR believes the border area near Morina to be the main artery for the smuggling of drugs into Kosovo destined for Western Europe.

Border/boundary security

10. KFOR continued to monitor border and boundary security, and reported 27 incidents of attempts to cross borders illegally, double the number of the previous month.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

11. The security forces of Serbia and Montenegro continued to remain in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Military Technical Agreement.

12. With regard to AKSh activities within the KPC, the SRSG and COMKFOR sent a joint letter on 14 May to the Commander of the KPC expressing dissatisfaction on the lack of progress in his investigation, and requesting answers to specific questions by 23 May. The Commander of the KPC replied that he was actively seeking out the members of the KPC with connections to extremist or terrorist organizations.

13. Subsequently, on 27 May, in a meeting of the Civil Protection Development Group, the co-chairmen (the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Commander of KFOR) accepted that General Ceku had done as much as he could within his limited powers. A joint KFOR/UNMIK investigation board was therefore established to follow up on General Ceku's inquiry. It was noted that following the request of General Ceku to all members of the KPC to sign an oath eschewing association with terrorist groups, 51 members refused to sign.

14. A new KFOR Inspectorate for the KPC (KIKPC) has been established to deal with day-to-day supervision and inspection of the Corps. During the reporting period, the KIKPC focused on roll calls and the spring exercise TOKE, which was held from 12 to 14 May.[1]

15. On 8 May, General Ceku removed three senior KPC commanders from KPC Protection Zone IV suspected of being linked to the bridge explosion in Loziste on 12 April.

16. During the reporting period, three roll calls involving 17 different sites were carried out at short notice. The results showed a continued reduction in absenteeism, with 4 out of a total of 536 persons absent without permission. The minimum required presence of the KPC (set at 75 per cent at all times) was met with a result of 78 per cent. This figure includes duty in barracks and elsewhere in Kosovo. The results confirm the need to have a terms-of-service contract which will help to monitor approved absence for leave and sickness.

17. In May, 27 cases of non-compliance were reported. These include 16 cases of absenteeism, and others relating to illegal possession of weapons, disobeying orders and misuse of position or inappropriate behaviour. Eighty cases remain open, of which 55 will soon be closed.

[1] During the TOKE exercise, incidents were staged without notice across the province. KFOR and the management of the KPC monitored and assessed the reaction of the KPC headquarters and units, which had received no warning of the type, timing or location of the incidents, and will use the "lessons learned" to develop an effective training plan.

Cooperation with international organizations

18. KFOR continues to provide assistance, on request, to international organizations and non-governmental organizations working throughout Kosovo, and to provide security assistance in support of UNMIK police operations.

Outlook

19. It is expected that there will be an increase in criminal and other illegal activities over the summer months, particularly smuggling and attempts to cross borders illegally. Other activities relating to dealing in counterfeit money and drugs are also expected to increase throughout the province in the coming months.

United Nations S/2003/683

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 July 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 1 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement delivered at the opening of the World Conference on Higher Education, convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on 23 June 2003 by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al-Misnad, the Consort of His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar, and the UNESCO Special Envoy of Goodwill and Higher Education, for the establishment of the International Fund for Iraqi Higher Education.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

03-41724 (E) 090703 100703

Annex to the letter dated 1 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic and English]

I am honoured to join you to open the World Conference on Higher Education, convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Today, as we are examining our work from 1998 to date, we will assess how our policies have been translated into actions and programmes. Such reflection is an essential element of education, for only by reflecting on practice can logical theory be generated. Theory and plans alone are irrelevant without concrete and soundly grounded procedures that put this theory into action.

The central theme driving our discussion today is the need for the global community to assume responsibility for reform and innovation in education in order to meet the challenges of globalization, democratization and knowledge-based societies. Indeed, it is this responsibility and the dynamic relationship between democracy and education that I would like to reflect upon.

Today, in our troubled world, we place much faith in the power of education to produce responsible citizens committed to peace, global understanding, harmony and true democracy. Indeed, in the 1998 World Declaration we, at UNESCO, declared that "education is a fundamental pillar of human rights, democracy, sustainable development and peace". However, I would like to add that not only is education a pillar of democracy, but democracy is a pillar of education. Without well-educated citizens, willing to participate in the affairs of their countries, democracy cannot thrive. On the contrary, it will remain an empty theatre of elected seats. However, with well-educated citizens, critically charting the course of their future, this theatre is transformed into an interactive performance. Likewise, if there is no participatory democracy, the critical thinking skills and creativity essential for education are not fostered, and the very quality and integrity of education suffers. The educated citizen in a democratic society is a participant, not a spectator, and democracy itself is the process by which the performance of civil society is acted out.

I believe higher education, in particular, plays a vital role in the promotion and sustenance of democratic societies. Indeed, it provides nourishment for critical and analytical thinking, freedom of expression and debate. I believe institutes of higher education ought to be havens of innovative thought that propel society towards change, diversity and adaptation. Institutes of higher education ought to be safe environments for all citizens who are capable, regardless of individual, gender or ethnic differences, of debating and expressing their thoughts in a collaborative and progressive environment. Indeed, institutes of higher education are vehicles for the promotion of a culture of quality that integrates the outcome of research into all facets of society. Institutes of higher education serve as the incubator for democratic values and practices essential for the sustenance of the very principles of democracy. Therefore, it is important that these institutions be promoted and accorded the autonomy and support needed to fulfil their mission.

In my country, Qatar, we have thought deeply about these issues as we are in the process of transforming both our educational institutions and our political structure. Today, I would like to share with you some of our experiences. Qatar, like

other countries in this highly competitive world, is insisting on finding its own path towards sustainable development, democracy, and the preservation of its cultural integrity. In Qatar, we have begun a series of radical educational changes at all levels: from basic education, to primary and secondary schooling, to higher education structures.

We realized that in order to face the demands of a knowledge-based global economy, the traditional ways of teaching and learning had to be changed. Our education system had to become more dynamic and creative. We realized the need to challenge and stimulate our citizens' intellects. We also realized that our citizens needed to be equipped with the necessary tools that would enable them to interact and compete effectively in the domestic and global culture and economy.

The responsibility we have placed on educational institutions in Qatar is great, because we comprehend that education plays a critical role in engineering the future of our society. We focused on four major premises in designing our course: international alliances, diversity of options, innovative educational systems, and access based on quality standards.

First, we decided to forge strong alliances with established, international educational institutions and agencies, to bring their expertise into our country, initiating a process of brain gain rather than brain drain.

Second, we decided to move from a State-sponsored monopolistic mode to a comprehensive system with various options that encourage competition throughout all levels of the educational system.

Third, we focused on the needs of sustainable development and envisioned educational systems and consortia that can service these needs. We invited top quality universities in their fields to provide a venue for scholars to share relevant research that is driven by the specific needs of our developing society.

And finally, we considered the issue of equity and developed policies to provide scholarships to qualified students and to encourage both men and women to cross the barriers of gender-bound professions.

In order to achieve these goals we had to start from our basic education and extend these changes to our higher education system. That is why we started the ongoing reforms in our primary and secondary schools. A system based on the charter school model was introduced where schools compete with each other to encourage diversity of choice, parental participation and accountability.

At the post-secondary level, the State-sponsored University is undergoing intense rejuvenation. Likewise, private investment has been encouraged to invite top quality universities to establish campuses in Qatar. Schools like Cornell Medical College, Virginia Commonwealth University and Texas A&M are establishing campuses in Qatar to promote research and education in the fields of medicine, design art and engineering. Also, institutes for technical education have been established. Other schools for business and computer sciences are being planned. Further, the Science and Technology Park will draw upon the resources of all these entities, and others yet to come, to build partnerships between academic institutions, business and industry. In addition, the Rand Public Policy Institute-Qatar, in cooperation with our national reform team, will provide in-depth, analytical research into various facets of our development.

Qatar is firmly committed to reconsidering archaic methods of education in order to better meet the needs of our changing society. I imagine that the outcomes of these reforms will be phenomenal, not just in the academic and economic development of our country and region but in the development of our most important resource — our human resources.

As we redesign the education system in Qatar, we are simultaneously introducing democratic reform into our political structure. To this end, the Ministry of Information has been dissolved. Censorship has been abolished. Freedom of speech and debate is being encouraged. A municipal council has been elected for its second term with both men and women having the right to stand as candidates and to vote. A referendum has been conducted to consult citizens on the new structural reform, which will be initiated under the new Constitution. Further, the Supreme Council of Education has been established to serve as a comprehensive overseer of all educational institutions, private and governmental, across all levels of schooling. The goal of this Council is to set and enforce comprehensive policies and lessen the autocracy of government-controlled education,

We believe that democracy is not a foreign ideology or alien concept but is innate within the tradition of our Islamic heritage. Democracy has always been an essential element of Islam, which promotes the equality of humankind and decision-making through consultation. Islam requires critical thinking and constructive debate, and condemns misology. To revive the democratic values inherent in the fabric of our society is perfectly in tune with the critical requirements placed on Muslims, who were ordered by Allah to reflect independently on knowledge. Indeed in Surat al-An`am, people are assured, and I quote:

Proofs have come to you from your Lord,

So whosoever sees

Will do so

For the good of his own self,

And

Whosoever blinds himself

Will do so

To his own harm.

And I, Muhammad, am not a watcher over you.

Thus, We explain variously

The verses

So that ...

We make clear for the people who have knowledge.

Misoneism has no place in Islam. Islam encourages us to face innovation with creativity, not fear. Democracy is also compatible with the Islamic valuing of diversity, pluralism and tolerance.

Today's world places the responsibility of peace and cross-cultural understanding squarely upon the shoulders of education and democracy. Upon

examining the history of the relationship between democracy and education, John Dewey declared: "the democratic ideal of education is a farcical, yet tragic, delusion". Though the tragedies of our failures still haunt us, I strongly believe Dewey despaired too soon. We will never allow the democratic ideal of education to remain a delusion but will continue working to make it a global reality.

To this end we need a strong, international forum to discuss the relationship between democracy and education. As a global community, we have organizations that monitor trade, the free market, human rights, etc. Why can we not have an organization to promote the dynamic growth of education through democracy and democracy through education? Such a forum would allow global interaction that can only increase the potential of societies to relate to each other on equal and dignified terms. Such a forum would facilitate the work of organizations such as UNESCO and be conducive to research and global policy-making which promote democracy and education.

For example, for some time the world's attention has been focused on Iraq. Had we had an international forum for education, we would have been able to diagnose Iraq's educational needs and offer appropriate and timely assistance. In Qatar, we have watched the struggle of the Iraqi people with sorrow and empathy and, although we could not change the causes of this anguish, we can now offer a venue of relief to help re-establish the educational infrastructure of a great country. Iraq is a proud country with rich educational resources and throughout its history it has contributed much to the world, especially in terms of art, philosophy and poetry. I believe it is the duty of the international community to stand by Iraq in this troubled time and assist the country through this difficult transition, until it can once again stand as a world leader in education, research, and culture.

It is in this context, of encouraging the practice of global responsibility for education, that I wish to announce today the establishment of the International Fund for Iraqi Higher Education. The objective of this Fund is to provide immediate and long-term assistance for the reconstruction of higher education in Iraq. It is my intention to work closely with international donors to support Iraq as it engineers its own future by taking optimum advantage of the rich resources of its citizens. The first donor to this Fund will be the State of Qatar, which has always been a supporter and advocate of such causes.

Only by transforming the ignorance, hatred and oppression in our world into trust, respect and equality can we progress as a human society. Only by maintaining our cultural integrity as diverse nations with a common commitment to the intellectual, spiritual, physical and emotional development of our citizens and nations can we forge a world worthy of our children. The future of our nations depends not only on knowledge-based education but also on holistic and global education nurtured by the "milk of human kindness", tolerance and creativity. Are we up to the challenge?

Thank you.

United Nations S/2003/684

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 July 2003

Original: English

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous relevant resolutions, including resolutions 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, 689 (1991) of 9 April 1991, 806 (1993) of 5 February 1993, 833 (1993) of 27 May 1993 and 1483 (2003) of 22 May 2003,

Taking note of the Secretary-General's report of 17 June 2003 (S/2003/656) on the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM),

Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and Kuwait,

Recognizing that the continued operation of UNIKOM and a demilitarized zone established under resolution 687 (1991) are no longer necessary to protect against threats to international security posed by Iraqi actions against Kuwait,

Expressing its appreciation for the substantial voluntary contributions made to the Observation Mission by the Government of Kuwait,

Commending the superior role played by UNIKOM and Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) personnel, and noting also that UNIKOM successfully fulfilled its mandate from 1991 to 2003,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to continue the mandate of UNIKOM for a final period until 6 October 2003;

2. *Directs* the Secretary-General to negotiate the transfer of UNIKOM's non-removable property and of those assets that cannot be disposed otherwise to the States of Kuwait and Iraq, as appropriate;

3. *Decides* to end the demilitarized zone extending 10 kilometres into Iraq and 5 kilometres into Kuwait from the Iraq-Kuwait border at the end of UNIKOM's mandate on 6 October 2003;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the completion of UNIKOM's mandate;

5. *Expresses* its appreciation of the decision of the Government of Kuwait to defray since 1 November 1993 two thirds of the cost of the Observation Mission;

6. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

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Security Council

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Letter dated 2 July 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Lebanon is requesting the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which expires on 31 July 2003, for a further interim period of six months, on the basis of the provisions of Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), dated 19 March 1978, and in view of the fact that the continued deployment of UNIFIL is necessary in order for it to complete the mandate with which it was entrusted by those two Security Council resolutions. This request is consistent with the judicious conclusions contained in your periodic reports to the Security Council to the effect that a major part of the mandate of UNIFIL has not been completed, particularly with respect to "the restoration of lasting peace and security" in the region. The request is particularly urgent in the light of the serious violations and provocations committed by land, sea and air on a daily basis by Israel across the Blue Line which are a continuing aggression against the sovereignty of Lebanon, a threat to its security and peace and a blatant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978).

In this context, Lebanon emphasizes that the maintenance of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, as provided for in the two above-mentioned resolutions, will be a reaffirmation of the international community's commitment to the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty over its entire territory and of the strong support given by the Security Council in its successive resolutions to the territorial security, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within internationally recognized borders, most recently in its resolution 1461 (2003).

Lebanon pays tribute to the ongoing contribution of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon in mine removal operations and to the efforts made by donor countries in that regard. Lebanon requests the Security Council to exert pressure on Israel to produce maps and other documents showing the location of the mines left behind by the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory, the existence of large numbers of which has been reported to the United Nations. These mines are continuing to cause death and injury to Lebanese civilians, and to restrict their freedom of activity and movement, as well as impeding the freedom of travel of UNIFIL and the fulfilment of its mandate in its area of operation. They also constitute a danger to the life of individuals working there and to those working on mine clearance. Lebanon also requests the Security Council to endeavour to secure the release of Lebanese nationals who have been detained illegally for many years in

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Israeli prisons in flagrant breach of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols.

Lebanon renews its commitment to the peace process in the Middle East with a view to the attainment of a comprehensive and just peace in the region based on the resolutions of the United Nations and on the authority of the Madrid Conference and in accordance with the comprehensive Arab peace initiative which was adopted unanimously at the Beirut Summit on 28 March 2002.

I avail myself of this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Lebanese Government, to the efforts made by the leadership and individual members of UNIFIL, and to the troop-contributing countries for their efforts and sacrifices in the implementation of its mandate.

The Government of Lebanon also wishes to convey to you its appreciation for your tireless efforts in support of the role of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Houssam **Diab**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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3 July 2003

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of Germany on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a note verbale dated 2 July 2003 from the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations stating that Ms. Katja Wiesbrock has been appointed alternate representative of Germany on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that communication constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

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